

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0852

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: (A) STATE 244067; B) JAKARTA 12657

1. GENERAL MURDANI HAD PROMISED TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL FIGURES THAT WE COULD USE IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ISSUE, BUT LEFT FOR US BEFORE DOING SO. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RAISE QUESTION IN MEETINGS WITH HIM. IT IS LIKELY QUESTION WILL COME UP IN COURSE WASHINGTON SEMINARS IN WHICH HE IS PARTICIPATING; WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING ANSWERS OF INDONESIANS PARTICIPANTS.

2. MEANWHILE EXACT FIGURES ON RELEASES ARE STILL UNCLEAR. DUTCH EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS DUTCH HAVE BEEN GIVEN FIGURES OF 1300 1965 DETAINEES RELEASED AND 2500 MORE TO BE RELEASED BY ADMIRAL SUDOMO, BUT DID NOT GET PERMISSION TO USE FIGURES PUBLICLY. DUTCH AMBASSADOR JALINK WAS TOLD BY HANKAM SPOKESMAN SUMRAHADI EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT THE 1300 WERE TO BE RELEASED IN STAGES AND THAT TO EFFECT THIS RELEASE GOI WAS CONSIDERING REMOVING SOME CLASS B PRISONERS FROM BARU ISLAND AND RESETTLING THEM IN OTHER LOCATIONS UNDER FEWER RESTRAINTS (THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO JAVA).

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3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE GENERAL REPORTS AND FROM HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED THAT THERE IS AN ACCELERATED RATE OF RELEASE OF THE 1965 DETAINEES. UNTIL WE OBTAIN CLEARER OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT EXACT NUMBERS AND PROJECTIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK FIRMER DATA.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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